

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 41

1500 Hours January 4, 2006

New Information in Bold Italics

The next Situation Report will be 11 January 2006 at 1400 hours. Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours. A Conference Call is scheduled for Friday 6 January at 930 AM.

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation:

The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition.

State of Emergency:

On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions:

Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast:

Southwest VA: Wednesday 4 January – Partly cloudy, high temperatures mid to upper 50s, Southwest winds 10 MPH or less increasing to 10 to 15 MPH in the afternoon. Wednesday night – Mostly cloudy, low temperatures in mid 30s, West winds 5 to 15 MPH. **Thursday 5 January** – Mostly cloudy, colder, high temperatures upper 30s to low 40s, Northwest winds 5 to 10 MPH. Thursday night – Cloudy with a 30% chance of snow showers, low temperatures mid to upper 20s, Northwest winds 5 to 10 MPH. **Friday 6 January** – Cloudy with a 30% chance of snow showers, high temperatures upper 20s to low 30s, Northwest winds 10 to 15 MPH. Friday night – Mostly cloudy, 20% chance of snow showers in the evening, low temperatures mid teens to low 20s. **Saturday 7 January** – Partly cloudy, high temperatures low to mid 30s.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison:

VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

Temporary control of two blivets located at Bullitt Park (Water Filtration Plant) has been turned over to Town of Big Stone Gap. All National Guard personnel are off State Active Duty. Remaining two blivets are to be removed no later than 15 January and National Guard personnel will be placed on State Active Duty for their recovery.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Current Powell River stream flow is **112 cubic feet per second**. (Stream flow during the past week ranged between 40cfs and 153cfs.) ***Big Stone Gap Watershed received approximately 3.2 inches of rain during the past week.*** The burn ban for Wise County was lifted on 8 December and the ***burn ban for the Town of Big Stone Gap was lifted on 3 January. There is a conference call scheduled for Friday 6 January to discuss water restrictions, update on situation and other State Agency support.*** Wise County is submitting a Local Situation Report weekly.

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